

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 PA-02 PRS-01 H-02 AID-05 NASA-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-15

NSC-05 OES-05 OMB-01 AS-01 /070 W

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P 220030Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2538

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

/DEA HQS WASHDC

UNCLAS MEXICO 0880

BOGOTA FOR VANCE; ARA FOR LUERS, S/NM FOR ERNST, DEA FOR EOI-CUSAK

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR MX

SUBJECT: MORE MEXICAN PRESS COVERAGE OF GOM/USG NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN

REF A. DUGSTAD/ALBERTI TELCON 1-21-76; B. MEXICO 574,

1. SUMMARY: INFLUENTIAL EXCELSIOR ON JAN 21 CONTINUED ITS COVERAGE OF NARCOTICS PROBLEM BY CARRYING: A) AN EDITORIAL ON USG/GOM COOPERATION, B) ARTICLE CONCERNING POSSIBLE USE SATELLITES, AND C) STORY BASED ON PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY CONG. WOLFF AND GILMAN. THESE ARE CAPSULATED BELOW. END SUMMARY

2. IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED " MEXICO AND NARCOTICS TRAFFIC," PAPER STATED: PRESIDENT FORD SAID IN HIS STATE OF UNION MESSAGE THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH PRES ECHEVERRIA ABOUT INCREASING MEXICO'S ANTI-DRUG EFFORTS. IT SHOULD BE CLEAR, HOWEVER, MEXICO FIGHTS DRUG TRAFFIC OF ITS OWN VOLITION, NOT BECAUSE THERE ARE PRESSURES FROM ABROAD IMPELLING IT DO DO SO. MEXICO SHOULD SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH U.S. HOW FRIENDLY NATION RESPONDS TO NEEDS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY.

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3. REFERRING TO JAN 15 STORY ON ALLEDGED " VANCE/OJEDA" AGREEMENT USE SATELLITES (REF B), EXCELSIOR FRONT-PAGED REPORT OF INTERVIEW WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT SECY MENDEZ DOCURRO, ENTITLED "IN ORDER TO SEEK POPPIES WITH SATELLITES A (NEW) AGREEMENT WOULD BE NEEDED." MENDEZ REPORTEDLY SAID THAT GOM NOW HAS AGREEMENT WITH NASA IN WHICH NUMBER OF PROGRAMS (I.E., SCREWORM ERADICATION, GEOLOGIC SURVEYS, ETC.) ARE INCLUDED. BUT AGREEMENT DOES NOT MENTION SPECIFIC PROGRAM FOR DETECTION OF OPIUM AND MARIJUANA FIELDS. TO AUTHORIZE SUCH PROGRAM, EXPANSION OR AMENDMENT OF EXISTING NASA AGREEMENT WOULD BE NECESSARY, MENDEZ SAID.

4. EXCELSIOR'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, ARMANDO VARGAS, WAS BACK ON PAGE ONE WITH STORY BASED ON JAN. 20 PRESS CONFERENCE OF CONG. WOLFF AND GILMAN, HEADLINED "THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS PASSIVE," ARTICLE REPORTED THAT CONG. PRAISED PRES ECHEVERRIA'S DETERMINATION COMBAT DRUG TRAFFIC AND CRITICIZED PRES FORD'S ALLEGED CAUTION IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM. CONG. ALSO REPOREDLY CRITICIZED SUPPOSED PASSIVITY OF STATE DEPT ON NARCOTICS ISSUE, SAYING IT ASSIGNED RELATIVELY LOW PRIORITY TO DRUG CONTROL AND ADDING "IN ALL COUNTRIES WE VISITED OFFICIALS COMPLAINED ABOUT SCANT COOPERATION OF STATE DEPT PERSONNEL." AMB VANCE ALSO CAME IN FOR SOME IMPLIED CRITICISM, WHEN CONGRESSMEN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT AMBASSADOR HAD BEGUN THIS WEEK (SIC) TRIP TO MEXICO, COSTA RICA, PANAMA AND COLOMBIA, (DOUBLE SIC), DURING WHICH HE WOULD BE SEEING SAME OFFICIALS CONGRESSMEN HAD SEEN. THOMPSON

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